



Department of Veterans Affairs

Center for Women Veterans (CWV)



Dr. Betty Moseley Brown
Associate Director, Center for Women Veterans
Washington, DC



Semper Fidelis!



Congressional Mandate

November 1994, Public
Law 103-446 required
VA to create

The Center for Women Veterans

to monitor and coordinate
VA programs for women





Our Mission

- Monitor and coordinate VA's administration of health care and benefits services, and programs for women Veterans.
- Serve as an advocate for a cultural transformation (both within VA and in the general public) in recognizing the service and contributions of women Veterans and women in the military.
- Raise awareness of the responsibility to treat women Veterans with dignity and respect.



Our Role

- Collaborate and coordinate with VA's three Administrations (VHA, VBA, NCA), and Staff Offices' on their delivery of benefits and services, and aggressively liaison with other Federal agencies: GAO, DoD (DACOWITS, Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services), DOL (Women's Bureau, Veterans' Employment and Training Service), HHS (Office of Women's Health, Indian Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and HUD), state, local, and other external partners (VSOs, faith-based and community organizations), as well as the Director serving as VA representative on White House Council on Women and Girls.
- Serve as a resource center and information clearinghouse, and perform joint outreach to improve women Veterans' awareness of VA services, benefits and eligibility criteria.



Our Role (continued)

- Educate VA staff on women Veterans contributions – Center staff members have membership on or attend all major Department-wide workgroups, task forces, and committees, and joint federal collaborative committees.
- Recommend policy and legislative proposals to the Secretary.
- Coordinate meetings of the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, to include an annual site visit to VA field facilities (health care facilities, regional offices, national cemeteries, domiciliaries, transitional housing).
- Coordinate the development, distribution, and processing of the ACWV reports.



Women Veterans Demographics

- One of the fastest growing Veterans subpopulation. Based on active duty and recruiting numbers, the percentage of female Veterans is projected to increase.
- Median female Veteran's age 46 (male – 60).
- Of the 23.4 million Veterans; approximately 1.8 million are women Veterans and 5 percent of all Veterans who use VA health care services
- Last year alone, according to VHA, VA experienced a 20 percent jump in the number of women using VA healthcare, compared to 17 percent increase over the previous 6 years combined.
- The number of women Veterans enrolled for health care is expected to double in the next 5 years.



Women Veterans and Other Demographics

- Women represent 15 percent of active-duty military members and 15.1 percent of National Guard and 17.7 Reserves Forces (WIMSA data from DoD as of 9/30/09).
- 20 percent of new military recruits are women.
- According to Stars & Strips (25 Jan 10), 8 percent of female troops are mothers
- Women represent over 220,000 of the 1.8 million troops serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.
- The Department estimates that by 2020 women Veterans will comprise 10 percent of the Veteran population. Now 7.7 percent.



Legislation Related to Women Veterans

- Children of Women Vietnam Veterans (CWVV) Health Care Benefits Program (Public Law 106-419)
 - May be eligible for health care and compensation.
- Mastectomy Special Monthly Compensation (SMC)
 - Additional SMC of \$89 based on loss of creative organ, or loss of 25% or more of breast tissue.
- Military Sexual Trauma Counseling & Care (Public Law 108-422)
 - May receive counseling & care without filing a service-connection claim for disability. No “sunset” on this law.
- Military Reservist and Veterans Small Business Reauthorization and Opportunity Act (Public Law 110-186)
 - Establishment of a Women Veterans Business Training Resource Program
- Veterans’ Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act (Public Law 110-387)
 - Sec. 808. Permanent requirement for biennial report on Women Veteran Advisory Committee.



Women Vietnam Veterans Longitudinal Study



- Study began November 2009 and will last more than 4 years.
- Contact to approximately 10,000 women in mailed survey, telephone interview and review of medical records.
- Goal is to understand the impact of wartime deployment on health and mental outcomes nearly 40 years later.
- About 250,000 women Veterans served during the Vietnam War and about 7,000 were in/near Vietnam.



What Women Veterans Tell Us They Need and Want

- Recognition and respect.
- Employment.
- Suitable housing.
- Access to and receipt of high quality health care.
- Childcare options.
- Opportunities for social interaction.
- Want to make a difference.



How Women Veterans Can Obtain Local Assistance

- Full-time women Veterans program managers at every VA healthcare facility; Women Veterans Health Strategic Health Care Group (formerly Women Veterans Health Program Office):
www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth/
- Women Veterans coordinator at every VA regional office:
www.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isFlash-1
- Homeless Veterans coordinators:
www1.va.gov/HOMELESS/Hmls_Vet_Prog_Coord.asp
- Minority Veterans program coordinator at every VA healthcare facility, regional office, and national cemetery:
www.va.gov/centerforminorityVeterans/



How Women Veterans Can Obtain Assistance

- VA National Homeless Veterans Call Center 1-877 424-3838 or 1-877 4AID-VET, www.va.gov.
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- VHA plans to utilize the OIF/OEF Call Center to reach out to Women Veterans
- National Cemetery Administration “webpage outreach to Women and Minority Veterans.” Website: www.cem.va.gov.



Other Resources for Women Veterans

- National Association of State Women Veterans Coordinators (State Department of Veterans Affairs/**Governor's Office**)
<http://www.naswvc.com/>
- Women In Military Service For America (WIMSA)
www.womensmemorial.org
- Women's Policy, Inc.
www.womenspolicy.org/
- DoD Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Assault www.sapr.mil



Recent Legislation S. 1963

- Provide Family Caregivers with training, counseling, supportive services, and a living stipend
- Reach out to Rural Veterans
- Authorizes VA to provide health care to a newborn child of qualifying women veterans for up to 7 days
- Requires VA to train its mental health providers in the treatment of military sexual trauma
- Mandates that VA implement pilot programs to provide child care to women veterans receiving medical care, and to provide readjustment services to women veterans
- Enhance Services for Homeless Veterans



Overview of 2010 Advisory Committee on Women Veterans Recommendations

1. That VA establishes more collaborative partnerships that would enable women Veterans to receive comprehensive recovery treatment.
2. That VA provides childcare options for eligible Veterans...
3. That VA establishes more gender-specific health treatment programs for PTSD and MST.
4. That VA establishes a women Veterans awareness training program for new employees...focus on changing roles, combat-related exposures and MST sensitivity.
5. That VA develops a plan of action to reverse high turnover rate of full-time WVPM.



Overview of 2010 Advisory Committee on Women Veterans Recommendations

6. That VBA establishes full-time WVC in catchment areas with >40,000 women Veterans.
7. That duties/functions of WVCs be standardized...
8. That VBA conducts Area conferences every 2 years...
9. That VA ensures rural health mobile vans and clinics have standardized protocols...
10. That VA collaborates with CWV on media campaigns to ensure consistent inclusion of women Veterans in posters, printed materials, brochures, etc.



Did You Know?

- 1-day inaugural Women Veterans Forum at the Women's Memorial filled to capacity within an hour of open registration.
- VA simplifies access to health care and benefits for Veterans with PTSD (see July 12, 2010 News Release on www.va.gov)
- Presumptions of Service Connection for Southwest Asia and Afghanistan Service
- Veterans' Medallion available for Veteran graves in private cemeteries (for deaths occurred on or after Nov. 1, 1990) and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.





Did You Know?

- Vet Centers have enhanced information on website for Women Veterans for PTSD and MST:



- You can re-open your claim for service-connection on the toll-free number of 1-800-827-1000.
- There is a new eBenefits site that allows you to track the status of your claim. The *eBenefits* web portal is an online resource for tools and benefits-related information for Wounded Warriors, Veterans, Active Duty Servicemembers, their families, and those who care for them.





Did You Know?

- Summit 2012...





National Summit on Women's Issues September 2011... “Save the Date”





Summary - Where We Are Going

- Enhancing joint outreach efforts – a Secretarial priority.
- Connecting women Veterans with knowledge of VA benefits and services.
- Promoting recognition of women Veterans' service and contributions of women Veterans and women in the military. "Her Story" campaign kick-off in March during Women's History Month & DVD in November.
- Collaborating with VHA/VBA on personal assault tracking system.
- Collaboration with White House Interagency Council on Women and Girls to share best practices and cross-cutting initiatives.
- Educate internal and external stakeholders of VA's amended motto, "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" - **by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's Veterans.**
- Ensure that momentum is Veteran-centric, results driven, and forward looking.



Outreach Posters



WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Concerned about
your mental health?

**You don't
have to
face it
alone.**

Let VA help.

★ You served, you deserve the best care anywhere. ★

Department of Veterans Affairs | www.va.gov/health | Health Services (HSA) | Health Care (HSC) | 10-0000

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

**Who has time
for the flu?**

**Get vaccinated
for seasonal flu
and H1N1 flu.**

Let VA help.

★ You served, you deserve the best care anywhere. ★

Department of Veterans Affairs | www.va.gov/health | Health Services (HSA) | Health Care (HSC) | 10-0000

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

**Early
Detection
Saves Lives**

Let VA help.

★ You served, you deserve the best care anywhere. ★

Department of Veterans Affairs | www.va.gov/health | Health Services (HSA) | Health Care (HSC) | 10-0000

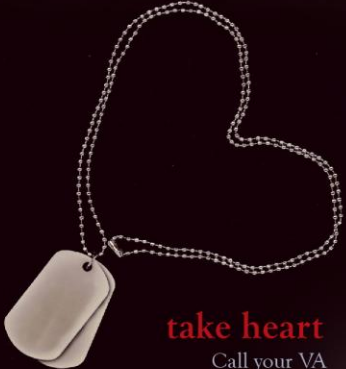


Outreach Posters



WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Heart disease is the #1 killer of
women veterans



take heart
Call your VA
provider today.

Department of
Veterans Affairs

★ You served, you deserve the best care anywhere. ★

Women Veterans Health Design Health Care Group, LLC ©2010

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

Don't let osteoporosis
slow you down.



Let VA help.

★ You served, you deserve the best care anywhere. ★

Department of
Veterans Affairs

Illustration by Linda Smith, Design Group, LLC ©2010

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

*A healthy pregnancy
should be the first gift
you give your child.
Let VA help.*



★ You served, you deserve the best care anywhere. ★

Department of
Veterans Affairs

Illustration by Linda Smith, Design Group, LLC ©2010

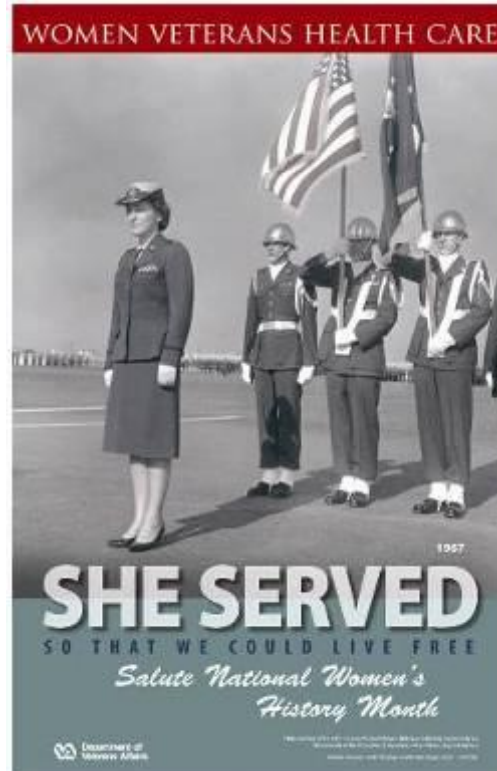


Outreach Posters





Outreach Posters





Women In Military Service For America Memorial



- ~ *Register in database*
- ~ *Tell your story*
- ~ *Visit*
- ~ *Be a part of her-story!*

www.womensmemorial.org



How to Contact the Center

- Dr. Irene Trowell-Harris, Director
- Dr. Betty Moseley Brown, Associate Director
- Desiree Long, Senior Program Analyst
- Shannon Middleton, Program Analyst
- Michelle Terry, Program Support Assistant

Address:

**Department of Veterans Affairs
Center for Women Veterans (00W)
Washington, DC 20420
Phone: 202-461-6193
Fax: 202-273-7092**

Website: www.va.gov/womenvet

Email: 00W@mail.va.gov